LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing brushes, whereby bundles of fibers are provided in a brush body, ~~whereby~~ wherein this method also comprises a step whereby the far ends of the fibers are subjected to a processing by bringing them into contact with a processing equipment, wherein during the aforesaid step, the fibers and the processing equipment are mutually put into contact while ~~whereas~~ the fibers are being held loosely together.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are initially put into contact with the processing equipment with a smaller freedom of movement at the far ends, and that the freedom of movement at the far ends is enlarged afterwards.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are held together in a holder.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the fibers are simply placed in an opening in the holder.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fibers are held together in a holder, wherein the fibers are put into contact with the processing equipment with the aforesaid free ends, while they protrude out of the holder over a certain free length, after which this free length is enlarged while the aforesaid processing is being carried out.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein while the above-mentioned free length is being enlarged, also the distance between the processing equipment and the side of the holder, from where the fibers protrude, is enlarged, while the contact between the free ends of the fibers and the processing equipment is being maintained.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the fibers are initially presented with a free length out of the holder, which is on average smaller than 1 millimeter.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fibers are held together in a holder, wherein the processing comprises at least two steps, namely a step in which the processing equipment makes contact with the far ends of the fibers, whereas the processing equipment is situated at a certain distance from the side of the holder from which the fibers protrude, and a subsequent step in which said distance is larger and/or is symmetrically enlarged.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the aforesaid distance in the first-mentioned step is smaller than 1 millimeter.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the processing equipment will first be positioned up to a certain distance from the side of the holder out of which the fibers protrude, and in that the fibers are subsequently brought into contact with the processing equipment with their far ends.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein, apart from the aforesaid holder and the processing equipment, use is also made of a number of push-out elements, and in that changing the above-mentioned free length and/or changing the above-mentioned distance is obtained by moving one or several of the above-mentioned elements, in other words the holder and/or the processing equipment and/or the push-out elements.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein it is used for rounding off the far ends of the fibers.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein use is made of a grinding tool as a processing equipment.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein it is used for manufacturing tooth brushes.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein it is applied in combination with the use of at least one holder which is provided with at least one opening in which the fibers have been provided by pushing them in in the longitudinal direction.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein it is used in a manufacturing process whereby bundles of fibers are placed in a holder as a function of a fiber bundle pattern of a brush or of a brush part to be manufactured, after which the thus obtained package of bundles of fibers placed in the holder is further processed in order to fix this package of bundles of fibers in a brush body, whereby the above-mentioned processing is then carried out while the bundles are situated in the above-mentioned holder.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method of claim 1 ~~it~~ is used in a manufacturing process wherein ~~whereby~~ bundles of fibers are separated from a fiber stock by means of a holder and temporarily remain in said holder to be further processed subsequently, in particular to be further processed in the manufacturing process of the brushes, wherein ~~whereby~~ the above-mentioned processing then takes place while the bundles are situated in the above-mentioned holder.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein a rotating bundle remover is used as a holder which is provided with one or several take-up openings along its perimeter, and which moves at least along a fiber cartridge, in which the aforesaid fiber stock is present.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the take-up openings at the height of the fiber cartridge are only partly filled.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the processed bundles of fibers from the ~~holde~~ holder are placed in a cartridge again.

21. (Currently Amended) A device for manufacturing brushes according to the method of claim 1, wherein it comprises a device for processing the far ends of fibers and in that the latter device at least comprises ~~consists of~~ a holder in which fibers can be held loosely together, as well as a processing equipment which can work in conjunction with the free ends of the above-mentioned fibers while they are provided in the above-mentioned holder.

22. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein it also comprises ~~means, in particular~~ push-out elements[[,]] to bring the fibers further out of the holder with their free ends; in that it comprises a drive ~~means~~ for moving one or several of the above-mentioned elements, in other words the holder and/or the processing equipment and/or the push-out elements; and in that it also comprises a control with which said movement takes place in such a manner that a method is carried out ~~created~~ according to claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 10~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein the way whereby bundles of fibers are placed in a holder is ~~as~~ a function of a fiber bundle pattern of a brush or of a brush part to be manufactured, after which the thus obtained package of bundles placed in the holder is further processed in order to fix this package of bundles of fibers in a brush body, wherein ~~whereby~~ the above-mentioned device for processing the far ends of the fibers works in conjunction with the fibers present in the above-mentioned holder.

24. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein it is of the type whereby bundles of fibers are separated from a fiber stock by means of a holder and temporarily remain in said holder to be further processed subsequently, in particular to be further processed in the manufacturing process of the brushes, wherein ~~whereby~~ the

above-mentioned device for processing the far ends of the fibers works in conjunction with the fibers present in the above-mentioned holder.

25. (Original) The device according to claim 21, wherein the processing equipment is a grinding tool or the like for rounding off fiber ends.